



Presorted
Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Salt Lake City, Utah
Permit No. 4621

Utah Watershed Review

Vol. 10, No. 3

Utah's Nonpoint-Source Water-Quality Newsletter

September 2002

Public Meetings Scheduled for Changes to W.Q. Standards

The Utah Division of Water Quality is proposing major changes to the Utah Water Quality Standards.

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

October 8, 2000 @ 6:30 pm
Location: Iron County Visitors Center
581 North Main Street
Cedar City, Utah

October 9, 2002 @ 9:30 am
Location: South Eastern Utah District Health Department
Large Conf. Room
28 South 100 East
Price, Utah

October 9, 2002 @ 2:00 pm
Location: Cannon Health Building
Room #125
288 North 1460 West
Salt Lake City, Utah

Revisions and Additions to the Water Quality Standards (R317-2, Utah administrative Code) that are of interest to the citizens of the State of Utah include the following proposals:

Ammonia Standards Revision: We are proposing to adopt newly revised equations for the calculation of the ammonia standards. EPA has completed additional studies that remove the temperature component for the acute standard and adds a "Fish Early Life" stage to the chronic standard calculations. In addition, the Division will be utilizing a new mathematical model developed by the University of Colorado Center for Limnology to predict the ammonia water quality standards and also the effect of point source discharges on a specific receiving water.

Antidegradation Policy: We are proposing to remove High Quality Water Category III from the rules. Category III required special treatment considerations for specified receiving waters. In its place we are proposing

to add a review process for all Federal and other specific actions where discharges are placed into any of our rivers and streams. This process may require additional alternative treatment options, a higher level of treatment, and pollution trading, etc. The rule will also allow a waiver for the review requirement where specific conditions concerning a discharge are met. The Executive Director may also require an antidegradation review for any proposed or renewing NPDES permit for any drinking water source within the state.

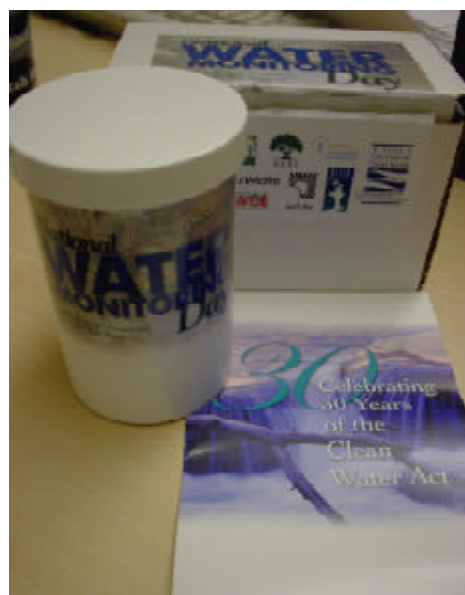
Bacteria: Under EPA request and guidance, we are proposing to remove the coliform bacteria group as a pollution indicator from our rules and replacing the bacteriological indicator with E. coli. It has been shown that E. coli is a much better indicator of mammalian fecal contamination. In addition, new field measurement procedures for E. coli are being introduced which will make field evaluation of bacteriological contamination much easier to measure. This will enable Division of Water Quality personnel to improve monitoring of both point and nonpoint pollution from human as well as agricultural sources.

Metals Standards Revision: EPA continues to conduct toxicological studies to further refine water quality standards for metals. We are proposing to include these revisions.

Total Dissolved Solids and Salinity: We are proposing to add a new standard for stock watering protection. In addition, we are proposing to waive the TDS standards where it can be shown that a high TDS values is naturally

See "Standards" on Page 2

Utah to Celebrate Year of Clean Water with Volunteer Monitoring



The Utah Division of Water Quality has several of these simple water test kits available for use on October 18th

Three decades after it was originally enacted, the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) continues to evolve and target larger remaining sources of pollution. One of the largest remaining source is the polluted runoff that comes a variety of land uses and a variety of people. Urban and suburban residents, smaller municipalities, farmers and ranchers, mining and timber harvesting operations, and people involved in outdoor recreation all contribute to polluted runoff.

As the 30th anniversary of the CWA approaches in October, national and local events are being planned to include and target the public.

A listing of events and efforts can be found at www.yearofcleanwater.org.

Along with the World Watershed Summit for water quality experts and leaders, watershed summits for youth and seniors will also be held.

The cornerstone event of the anniversary festivities is the national volunteer water quality monitoring day, scheduled for October 18, 2002.

Volunteer groups from around the country and throughout Utah will go out to local waterways and conduct a **"Volunteers"** continued on page 3

EQIP Money to Triple in Utah

Too much money is never a bad thing, but the sudden windfall of federal conservation dollars is making life interesting for the people who manage the USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funds in Utah.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) had to contract an additional \$4 million or so in EQIP money that was made available at the last minute. Originally for fiscal year 2002, Utah was given a \$3.5 million EQIP appropriation by Congress. In August that figure was more than doubled to nearly \$8 million.

Because the new Farm Bill is allocating even more money for USDA conservation programs, that \$8 million figure is expected to triple for FY 2003, said Karl Kler, state program planning coordinator, NRCS Utah. "We expect at least triple the money we got this year," Kler confirmed.

While NRCS employees are scrambling to contract the additional money for this year and planning for as

See "EQIP" on Page2

Highlights

Animal Feeding Operation Assessment Update.....page 2

2002 USEE Conference Announcement.....page 3

Year of Clean Water Celebrations Annoucement.....page 4

AFO Assessments on Track

Summer Slow Down Doesn't Worry Coordinators

The Utah animal feeding operation assessment process has slowed down this summer. During a recent meeting of the Utah Nonpoint Source Task Force, Don Ostler, director, Utah Division of Water Quality, expressed concerns about the slow down of activity.

“The momentum has not been there this summer,” admitted Ray Loveless, Utah Association of Conservation District. “The commitment is still there to complete the assessments by April 2003.”

But that may be easier said than done. As of the last week of August 2002, 1,180 assessments had been completed since the assessment effort started about 18 months earlier. Estimates are that there are still about 800 to more than 1,000 left to complete.

Some of the state’s 38 soil conservation districts (SCDs) are finished with their assessments, while some lag far behind and have barely started. Most districts fall somewhere in the middle.

“It’s harder to catch AFO owners at home where they have time to go out with us during the summer months,” said Mark Peterson, Utah Farm Bureau Federation.

Peterson and Loveless, who are coordinating assessment efforts statewide, say that they are working with the areas of the state that need the most help completing their assessments.

Of the 1,180 assessments completed, 790 operations have been officially listed as AFOs, while 50 are CAFOs, 140 are neither and another 200 are potential CAFOs.

The potential CAFO category is the most important part of the Utah AFO Strategy and the assessment effort.

Those operations listed as potential CAFOs mostly have a direct or indirect pollution discharge to a waterway. Under Utah’s approach, these operations—that are technically CAFOs at the time of assessment—are given time to develop and implement a comprehensive nutrient

qualify for cost share government grant funding. Permitted operations do not qualify for cost share grants. The Utah AFO strategy schedule calls for completion of the assessment process by Spring 2003. According to Loveless and Peterson, they still expect to be on schedule.



management plan. Once an operation implements the recommended improvements to eliminate the discharge, the operation can be officially designated as an AFO. The AFO designation is important to many agricultural operations because it means that they do not have to obtain a discharge permit and they still

agricultural operations. Clean Water Act Section 319 grant funds are offered at a 60/40 cost share ratio. However, EQIP does not pay for information and education efforts and water quality monitoring programs. Most likely Section 319 allocations for specific projects will look a little different in the future. The Section 319 proposals submitted to the Utah Nonpoint Source (NPS) Task Force in August for FY-2003 already show this change.

"Standards" Continued from front

occurring. There have been changes in the permitting policies of the Colorado River Salinity Forum. We are proposing to adopt these changes by reference.

Designated/Beneficial Use Classifications: There are several classifications of certain waters of the state that need revisions or new classifications. These are proposed to be included in our rules.

The Division is asking the public to be aware of these changes and how they will affect citizens that deal with the Division of Water Quality. We invite all to attend one of these “scooping” meeting to hear a presentation about the changes.

After the presentation, the meeting will be opened for questions on these changes and any other issues which the public feels important which deal with water quality standards.

The proposed changes can be found on the website of the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality: www.waterquality.utah.gov

For further information feel free to contact:
William O. Moellmer, Ph.D.
Utah Division of Water Quality
801-538-63329
wmoellmer@utah.gov

"EQIP" Continued from front page

much as \$24 million in FY 2003, Section 319 nonpoint source pollution control officials in Utah are also scrambling. Because EQIP money is offered as 75 percent federal grant money with only a 25 percent cost share due from land owners, EQIP is a far more attractive source of funds to most

Utah Watershed Review

EditorJack Wilbur

Editorial Review

**Cary G. Peterson, Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food,
Don A. Ostler, director, Utah Division of Water Quality,
George Hopkin, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food,
Mike Reichert, Utah Division of Water Quality
Roy Gunnell, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food**

If you would like to request an additional copy, make a comment or suggest a story or watershed focus idea, please call **Jack Wilbur** (801) 538-7098. Or write:

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
350 North Redwood Road
Box 146500
SLC, UT 84114-6500
E-mail: jwilbur@state.ut.us

Annual USEE Conference to address Creating Sustainable Communities

Meetings Set for November in Salt Lake City

With environmental problems constantly affecting Utah, such as a multi-year drought and smog (which is increased by the inversion layer here in the mountains), it is important for everybody to do their part. That's why the Utah Society for Environmental Education (USEE) will be hosting its 13th annual conference: *Creating Sustainable Communities* in Salt Lake City, UT. This conference, November 7-9, will not only provide practical ways to integrate the principles of sustainability into one's home and personal life, but will also give help in bringing these principles to one's business, and community. For teachers, the conference will also provide help with respect to the classroom and how to teach these principles.

Creating Sustainable Communities is divided into two components; targeting two different audiences. *Your Role as an Educator* – November 7-8, will focus on both formal and non-formal educators. The keynote speakers and concurrent sessions are designed to ensure that teachers are effectively educating their students on energy efficiency, recycling, conservation, and other sustainable topics. *From Theory to Action* – November 8-9, targets the general public. It will focus on applying sustainability to many aspects of a person's life. Concurrent sessions will address how sustainability is applied to investing, home design, public policy, one's faith, and more. Fortunately, because of a grant provided by the Utah Humanities Council, these sessions (held on November 9) will be free and open to the public.

Throughout the conference, USEE has lined up some wonderful speakers to address several aspects of sustainable societies. Mary Smith with the National Audubon Society and formerly of the U.S. Department of Education will start off the educator component of the conference by addressing participants with "Growing Natural Leaders." She will establish the connection between early education that fosters an appreciation for natural systems and advanced education when students

are making career choices and can focus on professions that address issues such as urban heat islands, renewable energy, high performance buildings, and other technologies that contribute to sustainability.

David Sobel is a nationally acclaimed educator and Director of the Graduate Program at Antioch University -New England. He is the Author of *Mapmaking with Children* and *Children's Special Places* as well as many other publications that relate to children, nature, and how children respond to teaching about nature.

Salt Lake City Mayor, Rocky Anderson will welcome the general public to the conference's proceedings on Saturday and discuss several indicators of a sustainable community.

Margaret Wheatley is president of the Berkana Institute and the author of *Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future*. She has been an organizational consultant and researcher since 1973 and has worked as a public school teacher and an urban education administrator in New York.

Paul Loeb is the author of *Soul of a Citizen*, a book based on 30 years of examining the psychology of social involvement. Loeb will explore how ordinary citizens can make their voices heard and actions count in a time when we're told neither matter. He will examine how people get involved in larger community issues, what often stops them from getting involved and how they burn out in exhaustion or maintain their commitment for the long haul. He will also address what we need to learn from citizen movements of the past and how involvement can give a sense of connection and purpose rarely found in personal life.

The cost for the conference will be \$100 for USEE's members, \$75 if the members are students or retired, and \$125 for non-members. Interested parties are encouraged to register before October 4th to take advantage of the Earlybird discount. For those only interested in the events on Saturday, November 9, the events are free.

For more information on the Conference, please contact Heather Scheel at the Utah Society for

Environmental Education: (801) 328-1549, hscheel@usee.org or www.see.org.

few simple water quality chemistry tests.

The idea behind the day is to provide a national "snapshot" of water quality. This is thought to be the largest effort ever undertaken to get "simultaneous" water quality numbers. Though the tests are not very sensitive and testers are not trained in quality assurance and quality control procedures, the project should go a long way toward raising awareness about watersheds and human contributions to water quality.

In Utah, the Utah Division of Water Quality is coordinating the efforts. The division is making test kit available free of charge. In return, project coordinator Shelly Quick is asking groups to officially register on

the national web site. America's Clean Water Foundation, the coordinator of the project will then ask groups who register sites to report their findings back to the web site. Quick is also asking as many group as possible to document their event through photographs or digital photos. Any groups willing to send in photos to the state may have some of those photos featured in water quality newsletters such as Utah Watershed Review. Some of the photos may be used for Division displays in the future.

For more local information, please contact Shelly Quick, Utah Division of Water Quality, 801/538-6516.

Clean Water Everywhere for Everyone — It's Up To You!



2002 is the Year of Clean Water.

Find out how you can help keep America's rivers, lakes, bays, estuaries and oceans clean.

Visit the Kids Corner at www.yearofcleanwater.org.

Teacher study guides available. Printed with soy inks on recycled paper.